

**RACISM REFLECTED IN HARPER LEE'S *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*
(1960): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree
of Education in English Department

by:

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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

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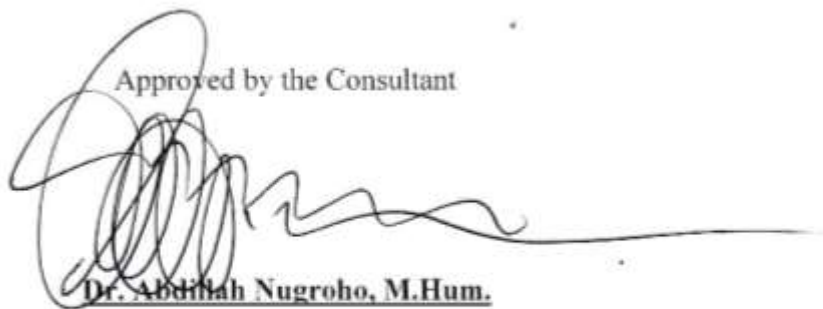
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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Abdullah Nugroho, M.Hum.

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Accepted by

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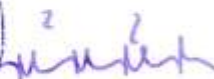
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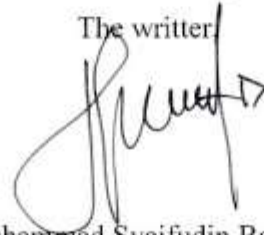
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Herewith, I testify in this publication article there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain Bachelor Degrees of university, nor there are options or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

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Surakarta, 19 January 2018

The writer,



Muhammad Syaifudin Bachtiar

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Abstrak

Permasalahan utama dalam penelitian ini adalah masalah yang terjadi di masyarakat yaitu rasisme. Dikarenakan adanya perbedaan antara manusia, dan juga perasaan bahwa rasnya lebih baik dari yang lainnya maka terciptalah diskriminasi terhadap ras minoritas dalam masyarakat. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa *To Kill a Mockingbird* karya Harper Lee berdasarkan elemen-elemen struktur dan menganalisa novel ini dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi.

Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif. Peneliti menggunakan dua sumber data: data primer dan data sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah novel itu sendiri. Dan, sumber data sekunder adalah buku-buku mengenai penelitian pendekatan sosiologi, referensi mengenai *To Kill a Mockingbird* dari internet, dan sumber lainnya yang berkaitan dengan penelitian. Metode pengumpulan data adalah dengan penelitian pustaka dan teknik pengumpulan data adalah dengan teknik diskriptif.

Menurut analisis, peneliti mendapatkan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama, penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat diskriminasi ras yang terjadi di *To Kill a Mockingbird* karya Harper Lee. Diskriminasi berdasarkan ras Nampak pada saat Tom Robinson yang ingin mendapatkan keadilan melalui pengadilan. Mereka memutuskan bahwa Tom adalah orang berkulit hitam dan tidak pernah ada orang berkulit hitam menang atas orang berkulit putih di dalam pengadilan. Kedua, di novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee mencoba memberikan diskripsi mengenai masyarakat Amerika di pertengahan abad kedua puluh yang menonjolkan kejadian rasisme di masyarakat. Fenomena ini dapat dilihat di lingkungan Scout dimana orang-orang menilai bahwa orang berkulit hitam adalah ras terendah dan memanggil orang yang berusaha membela mereka dengan sebutan "pembela niger"

Kata kunci: Rasisme, Masyarakat Amerika, Diskriminasi Ras

Abstract

The major problem of this study is a problem in society called racism. Because there is differences between human, and feeling a races better than the other as result there are any discrimination towards minor races in a society. The objective of this study is to analyze Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* based on the structural elements and analyze this novel based on the Sociological Approach.

The Researcher employs qualitative method. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data and secondary data. The primary data source is about the novel itself. Then, the secondary data sources are the books about sociological approach, references from internet about *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and other sources, which are have relation to the analysis. The method of data collection is library research and the technique of data collection is descriptive technique.

Based on the analysis, the researcher gets some conclusions. First the study shows that there is a Racial Discrimination that appears in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Racial discrimination is reflected in Tom Robinson who wants to get a justice in the courts. They decided it just because Tom is a colored man and there was never a colored people win against white people in court. Second, in novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee tries to give description about the American society in the middle of twentieth century which emphasizes a racism event in society. This phenomenon can be shown in the Scout society where some people assuming that colored people is the lowest race, and call people who defend them as a "nigger lover".

Keywords: Racism, American Society, Racial discrimination.

1. INTRODUCTION

Every human born as different individual, some have differences in their physic and some have differences in their psychology. Discrimination comes as the result of differences, some people who cannot accept the differences they will do anything to make other people who does not same as them feels uncomfortable. There is so much discrimination, and racism is the branch of discrimination. Racism is discrimination based on racial, racial identical with skin color, shape of eyes, language, religion, and may just from our origin. Today, the term of racism is used more broadly to apply to racial unfairness and discriminatory beliefs, actions, desires, projects, persons, groups, social institutions, and practices (Garcia, 1997: p. 1436). Racism has been hereditary from generation to generation, recurrent feature of the social sciences has been efforts to prove that there are inherited racial and gender differences these efforts, although earlier debunked, become reincarnated under different guises (Fairchild, 1991: p.101). People who do not accept the differences between each other, create the gap and social classification based on race and put them self in top of classification. This social classification inherited from generation to generation and makes the great depression in America society.

Since the social classification exist in society, people who felt himself and his races better and at the top of the classification will doing racial discrimination to the other races. It was because they felt that they were more

powerful and civilized than other races. When discussing racism, according to Joseph in (Srivanto, 2001: p.13-15), there are two conflicting perspectives, the first is racism in the scientific perspective of human effort to identify both of ethnological and anthropological about the origins of man and classify humans based on patterns physical possession. Racism is also understood as the non-scientific perspective that is a form of prejudice. In this case racism is a belief (belief) that human beings can be differentiated into various races and a member of a race will be inferior to other races. Basically the term racism is used to identify people and not to classify people based on their physical condition, but at the field people use racism to classify people and as a reason to deal inappropriate action toward other races.

There is much contradiction between *das sollen* and *das sein* in this novel. *Das sollen* mean everything that is necessity, or that required us to think and act in particular in the face of certain problem or reality. *Das sollen* also can be interpreted as everything that should happen or something based on theory and based on the rules should occur. *Das sollen* determine every human to respect each other, every religion also teach us to respect each other. Any religion said that every human has same value in the presence of God, religion never distinguish human depend on their skin color, racial, or tribe but depend on their faith and piety, so no matter you are God only see you based on your faith and piety. It was not only determined by religion but also determine by government. Every government has their own rule to prevent discrimination and punish offender of discrimination.

Das sein in *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel is different with *Das sollen*, the notion of *das sein* is anything that is execution of everything that set in *das sollen*. In this novel there are so much racial discrimination between white skin people and black skin people. The examples of *das sein* in this novel are people always called them as negro. not only called them as negro but they also seeing them as human with lowest degree, in education black skin people have small chance to study, in job opportunity black skin people also considered inappropriate to work in office, they only get job from the field as

laborers with low payment, and in living environment they also get different place with white skin people.

In this research, the researcher would like to present the condition or the representative of racism on the novel "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" by Harper Lee. The researcher will analyze Harper Lee's novel using sociology of literature approach. Racism viewed as a problem that not only derived from individual psychology or pathology, but also from the pattern of cultural representations embedded with practice, discourse, and the subjectivity of Western society (Barker, 2004: 266). According to Oliver C. Cox (1948) that all the values that they have "unacceptable", "right", and "good"; and conversely all other public values "unacceptable", "wrong" and "ugly". The only difference between ethnocentrism and racism ethnocentrism is that the difference not based on the grooves of a racial or skin color.

This study chosen because the researcher interested to study about literature, and the researcher wants to know about the effect of racism in that era, so the researcher try to study and to understand, and try to present the condition of racism in United State in that era. Racism always be an interesting problem to discuss, and from the novel "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" by Harper Lee the researcher want to feel the social and political condition, and to feel the racism that know as *great depression* in 1930th through character of Calpurnia and Tom Robinson.

The novel tells the story that represents a situation that thought to reflect real life, or to stimulate the imagination (Danesi 2010: 75). Many novels, tells about life in the past. The novel takes the theme of racism have also been many published, as in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, written by Nelle Harper Lee. The novel is set in the 1930s when Recession Massive (Great Depression) in the town of Maycomb, Alabama.

2. METHOD

Based on the type of analyzing data, this study applies the qualitative research in which the data is analyzed by explaining descriptively. Bodgan

and Biklen (1982) state qualitative research is characterized by description in forms of words or sentences. Qualitative research can be done through library and field research. This study applies library research. This method is applied by reading and studying some books concerned about the topic of the problems. Nawawi states that library research is a research activity done by collecting the data from some sources either from library or other places (2005:31). The sources used are not limited only by the books, but magazines and newspapers are allowed.

The object of the study is the racism that happens in 1930th based on Harper Lee novel's "To Kill a Mockingbird" representative from other characters treat to Calpurnia and Tom Robinson. It is analyzed by using a sociological approach. There are two data sources which are needed to conduct this research. They are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data in this research is character, punctuation, words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs/discourse in novel "To Kill a Mockingbird". In addition, the researcher also uses electronic books to support the researcher about the theory. The primary data are novel "to kill a mocking bird", reader's response, and reader's reception, and the secondary data is previous study.

The technique of collecting data in this research is documentation technique. Documentation method is a method that searches data about things or variables like notes, transcriptions, books, newspapers, magazines, agendas, etc (Arikunto 2006:31). The method is used by reading To Kill a Mockingbird novel and then analyzing the novel to find the racism in that novel. After analyzing the researcher lists the racism happen to Calpurnia and Tom Robinson in To Kill a Mockingbird novel. This research uses descriptive analysis. It means that all of the primary data analyzed and interpreted descriptively by using Sociological of literature approach to get the conclusion about racism in 1930th based on To Kill a Mockingbird novel. The researcher will analyze the racism in 1930th by applying sociological approach.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the sociological analysis above, it is clear for the researcher to state that structural elements of this novel are worthy with the essence of the study using sociological approach.

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* discusses the American society in the middle twentieth century. Harper Lee sees that social life is important to America society and get influence from it. The social background of American society in the middle century gives influences to Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The story of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the phenomenon of what happened at that time. Therefore, social background at that time influenced Harper Lee in creating his novel *The Lost Boy*.

Harper Lee criticizes this phenomenon through the characters of Jean Louis "Scout" Finch. She represented an innocent child, a child who curiously and see the society through her innocent thought. He encountered a problem, which guide her to understand it. She found a problem where people see and judging people through their prejudice. Harper Lee gives some idea about prejudice to the colored people through the characters' act in the novel.

In the late twentieth century, social, economic, politic, cultural, science and technology, and religious condition lead the United States to great depression. The social condition of American in the middle twentieth century was one of the influential factors to Harper Lee in making literary work. In the middle twentieth century, American Social is bad. Where are colored people lives in insecurity and iniquity condition. Races are important thing in this era.

The sociological analysis above shows that the racial discrimination depends on the social background of America in the late twentieth century. Based on the above analysis, it is obvious for the researcher to state that the structural elements of the novel are matching to the main idea of Harper Lee viewed by sociological approach.

4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the structural elements of the Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* using sociological perspective, the researcher draws the conclusion as follows:

First, based on the problem statement of the study, the researcher concludes that there is a Racial Discrimination that appears in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Racial discrimination is reflected in Tom Robinson who wants to get a justice in the courts. He tries to prove that he was clear and get the justice through Atticus help. But, even in court he still does not get his justice. Atticus can prove that he was clear, but the judges still decided that he was guilty only based on their prejudice. They decided it just because Tom is a colored man and there was never a colored people win against white people in court.

Second, in novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee tries to give description about the American society in the middle of twentieth century which emphasizes a racism event in society. This phenomenon can be shown in the Scout society where some people assuming that colored people is the lowest race, and call people who defend them as a "nigger lover".

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